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Message Text

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61
ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-01 A-01 SY-04 L-03 IO-14 PM-07

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 PRS-01 /105 R

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---------- 048575
R 061611Z MAY 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION BERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092540

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, WB, GW
SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC RENTS IN EAST BERLIN
REF: A. BERLIN 678
B. PARIS 10019

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES REPORTS ON RENT SITUATION IN EAST BERLIN, WHICH WILL BE OF VALUE IN CONSIDERING RECENT PROPERTY PROPOSALS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE GDR. WE ARE PREPARED TO SHARE OUR FINANCIAL DATA WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH, WHO WERE MOST COOPERATIVE TO OUR VISITING ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMS IN EAST BERLIN, AND WITH OUR OTHER WESTERN ALLIES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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2. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE POSITION THESE ALLIES FIND THEMSELVES IN ON THE RENT ISSUE, THOUGH IN ALL CANDOR MUCH OF BLAME RESTS WITH THEIR OWN NEGOTIATORS WHO, INSTRUCTED TO RUSH AHEAD WITH GDR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, FAILED TO LOOK CAREFULLY ENOUGH AT CONTRACT DETAILS. HAVING MADE MISTAKES, THESE ALLIES NOW IN ESSENCE WANT US TO HELP REMEDY THE SITUATION, BY NEGOTIATING SO FIRMLY WITH THE GDR OURSELVES THAT THEY CAN USE THE RESULTS TO HELP RENEGOTIATE THEIR OWN RENTS.

3. WE WANT TO AVOID BEING MANEUVERED INTO THIS POSITION. WE HAVE TOLD THE GDR THAT WE WILL EVALUATE THEIR PROPERTY AND RENTAL OFFERS STRICTLY ON THEIR MERITS, AND THIS IS WHAT WE INTEND TO DO. WE HAVE NOT COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING THESE OFFERS, AND WILL NOT DO SO FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. MOREOVER, DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GDR ON RENTS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE HELD BEFORE EARLY SUMMER. HENCE, EVEN IF WE WERE WILLING TO WORK IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES ON RENTS--WHICH WE ARE NOT--WE WOULD SIMPLY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO HELP IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

4. FOR ALL THE REASONS CITED ABOVE, DEPARTMENT WOULD STRONGLY PREFER TO KEEP THE GDR RENT ISSUE OUT OF NATO (REFTEL B), A FORUM WHICH HARDLY SEEMS APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSING AN ISSUE OF THIS KIND. IN OUR JUDGMENT THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION SUGGESTED IN PARA ONE COULD BEST TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON, AND OUR ALLIES MAY BE SO INFORMED BY USBER. SHOULD FURTHER CONSULTATIONS BE HELD AMONG WESTERN EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN, USBER REPRE-SENTATIVES, IF INVITED, MAY ATTEND AS OBSERVERS. RUSH

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